

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

KATE BROWNING

County Legislator, 3rd District
Health and Human Services, Chair



COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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YAPHANK AND CANAAN LAKES: INVASIVE SPECIES CLEAN UP MOVING FORWARD

Browning & Eddington Re-Appropriate \$50,000 for Dredging Tests

Yaphank, NY – Earlier this year the feasibility study to remediate invasive species in Upper and Lower Lakes in Yaphank and Canaan Lake in North Patchogue was finalized. The recommendations were approved by a task force made of New York State, Suffolk County, Brookhaven Town, community members, environmentalists and other stakeholders. The project will combine dredging with the application of herbicides in order to eliminate non-native plants that have overwhelmed these bodies of water and ruined the quality of life for residents in the area. Legislator Kate Browning (WF-Shirley) and Legislator Jack Eddington (I-Medford) sponsored I.R. 1521-11, which provides funding to conduct sediment testing needed for the dredging portion of the project.

Legislator Browning and Eddington funded the original \$250,000 feasibility study that led to the recommendations that have been accepted by the task force. The original plan was for \$50,000 to go towards a pilot project before full implementation of the plan progressed. However, the community agreed with the county and town to move forward now with the full project. The pilot project money was re-appropriated at yesterday's legislative meeting to be used instead for sediment testing that will be needed in any application to New York State for dredging permits.

"This is another example of government responding to the needs of its residents," stated Legislator Browning. "We brought together a dedicated group of community representatives, non-profit organizations and government officials to put together a plan for remediation of these important lakes. I am proud to say this funding is the beginning of implementing this plan."

"This was one of my first campaign promises— to remediate Canaan Lake to what it was when I moved here in 1973. At that time it was beautiful and residents spent long days on that lake swimming, boating, and fishing. To reach this goal, we began with the feasibility study, and now it is time to move forward with remediation. Then all that will be left to do is for the residents to enjoy themselves once again," said Leg. Eddington.

With funding now in place the legislators want to see an expedited process so that permits can be obtained as soon as possible. They hope that dredging can happen this winter and the first herbicide application can follow in the spring of 2012.

"The community wanted this done yesterday and we hear them loud and clear," concluded Browning. "They have waited over a decade to solve this problem and I am determined to get the dredging started this season. It is an ambitious goal knowing the process of obtaining permits, but we have our state elected officials on board and our county workers at the Department of Environment and Energy have been doing a fantastic job. I am optimistic it can be done this year."

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